

OMAHA WORLD HERALD — *Bruning: biggest court issue in a long time*

WASHINGTON — Today's Supreme Court session represents the “main event” in the three days of arguments over the new health care law, according to Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning.

That's because the court will use the session to examine the law's mandate that every American obtain health insurance or pay a penalty.

Proponents say that such an approach ensures that all Americans paying their fair share, and that Congress has the authority to take such action under its powers to regulate commerce because everyone uses health care at some point in life.

Nebraska is one of 26 states challenging the law.

Bruning and attorneys general from the other states making the case against the law are in Washington this week, listening to the arguments.

Bruning said that if the mandate is upheld, Congress can start dictating to people what they are allowed to eat and what kind of cars they may drive.

“The mandate is the biggest concept to be decided by this court in a long time, and if it's allowed to stand, the limits of congressional power will be virtually unchecked going forward,” Bruning told The World-Herald on the steps of the Supreme Court after the first day of arguments.

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